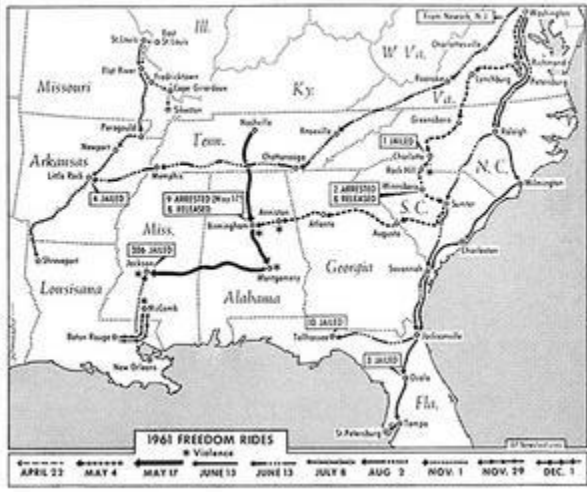


The Original Freedom Rides



THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, 1948 - 1965

THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY IN AMERICA



THE ROLE OF THE NAACP

- *Guinn V. The United States*, 1915
- The NAACP sponsored this case, which challenged the state of Oklahoma's grandfather clause – a law which maintained that only individuals whose grandfathers had been eligible to vote in 1865 would be permitted to vote. Other states had variations of this law – usually exempting white citizens whose grandfathers had voted from having to pay the poll tax – another voter suppression method used by Southern states.

THE ROAD TO OVERTURNING *PLESSY V. FERGUSON*

- During the 1930s, the NAACP's legal division pursued a policy of enforcing the requirements articulated by the Supreme Court within *Plessy V. Ferguson* – “separate but equal.”
- What the NAACP discovered most of the time was plenty of separate, but no equal. When school systems in the South proved separate but unequal, NAACP lawyers sued for funding in order to bring the facilities of African-American students to equality. Less frequently, they encouraged predominantly white institutions to accept African-American students and members. The high cost of maintaining equal facilities put pressure on Southern States committed to segregation.
- Between 1935 and 1940, law schools in Maryland and Missouri were opened up to African-American students.

MORGAN V. VIRGINIA, 1946

This Supreme Court case outlawed all segregation on interstate bus and train travel, even when state laws had been passed in order to outlaw the practice. Since the federal governments' laws were often in conflict with state code, the Supreme Court's ruling only applied in instances when interstate travel occurred.



THE LAW ON THE SIDE OF ACTIVISTS

The 14th Amendment

The 14th Amendment not only granted citizenship to all persons born in the United States (with the exception of Native Americans), it also guarantees equal protection under the law – and redefines the nature of citizenship in the process. Previously individuals had been citizens of the states; national citizenship prevailed now.

The 15th Amendment

The 15th Amendment states that that right to vote will not be restricted due to race, religion, or previous condition of servitude. While many states contrived schemes to rob their African-American citizens of suffrage in other ways, the Supreme Court eventually enforced the spirit of the law – rather than the letter of the law, banning grandfather clauses, for example.

School Segregation Banned, the *Topeka State Journal*. Courtesy Kansas State Historical Society

FOLKS AND THINGS
By 2054 This Bill Should Be Terrific

THE TOPEKA JOURNAL
By Shafter Publications, Inc.
Topeka, Kansas, Monday, May 17, 1954—Twenty-four Pages
Home Edition
Official City Paper
FIVE CENTS

SCHOOL SEGREGATION BANNED

Turnpike Bonds
Arrived So

“Today, education is perhaps the most important function of state and local government. Compulsory school attendance laws and the great expenditures for education both demonstrate our recognition of the importance of education to our democratic society...
WE CONCLUDE THAT IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION THE DOCTRINE OF 'SEPARATE BUT EQUAL' HAS NO PLACE. SEPARATE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES ARE INHERENTLY UNEQUAL.”

Oliver L. Brown, et al. vs Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, United States Supreme Court, May 17, 1954.

Supreme Court Refutes Doctrine of Separate but Equal Education
High Tribunal Fails to Specify When Practice of Dual Schools Must Be Dropped by States
Washington, May 17 (AP)—The Supreme court ruled unanimously Monday that segregation of Negro and white students in public schools is unconstitutional. That it said it will hear further arguments this fall on how and when to end the practice.
Three many months ago...
...more time will...
...before the historic...
...they set...
Court Ruling Hailed
Segregation Already Ending
School Officials
Topeka Board of Education...
...ruling...
...true de...



BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION, 1954

THE SUPREME COURT CASE WHICH LAUNCHED THE MOVEMENT.

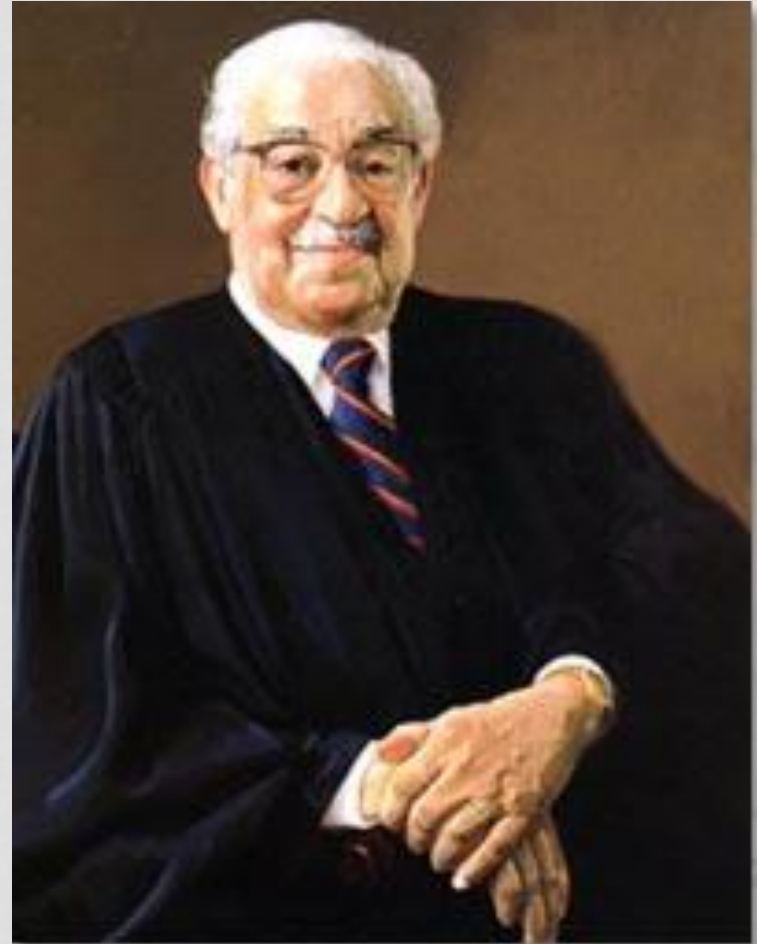
BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION, TOPEKA, KANSAS



The case of *Brown V. Board of Education* started off as several different cases from different regions of the nation. In Virginia, NAACP legal representative Oliver Hill brought forth the case against Virginia's segregation rules. When the case made it to the Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall took the lead. The 1954 ruling eventually overturned the *Plessy V. Ferguson* case, and integrate public schools.

THURGOOD MARSHALL

In addition to arguing dozens of cases before the Supreme Court to insist upon the equal rights under the law promised by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, Thurgood Marshall went on to become the first African-American Supreme Court justice. Clarence Thomas – who agreed with Thurgood Marshall on virtually nothing and has undermined many of his decisions – is the only current African-American on the Supreme Court.



GROUPS AND ACTIVISTS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT ERA

The NAACP is just one of dozens of civil rights activist groups which dominated the middle twentieth century in terms of social reforms:

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference

The Congress of Racial Equality

The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee

American Indian Movement

National Organization for Women

INTEGRATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Little Rock Nine



The Norfolk 17

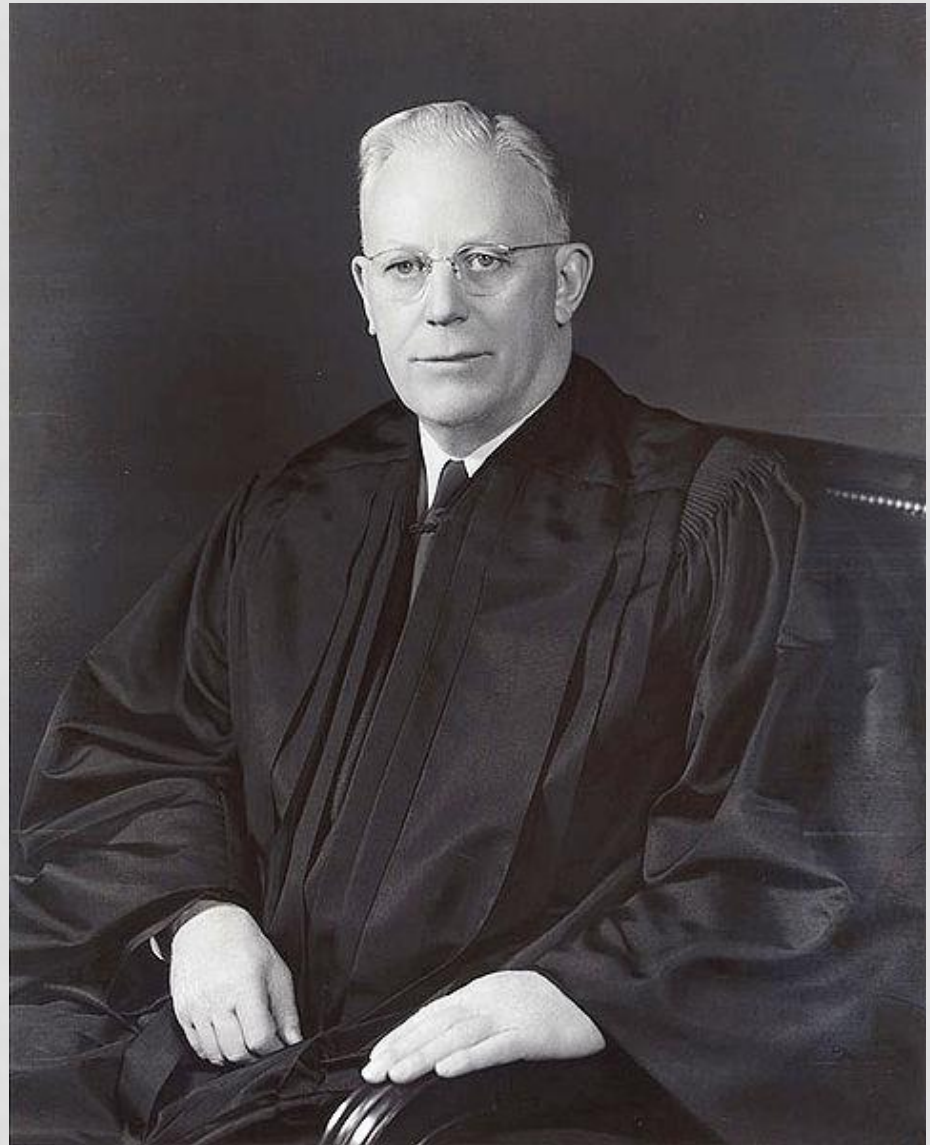


RESPONSES TO INTEGRATION IN THE STATE OF VIRGINIA

- In Virginia, the integration of Norfolk's public schools led to widespread protest and a series of attempts to prevent the desegregation process.
 1. Private schools began accepting higher and higher numbers of applicants.
 2. Virginians enacted a policy of "Massive Resistance." Instead of promoting integration "with all deliberate speed," they closed down the schools in the state.
 3. "White flight" saw many white families leave school districts where integration was eminent. Virginia Beach was populated to some extent by people from Norfolk to left the city.

BROWN V.
BOARD OF ED.,
TOPEKA, KS

*“With all
deliberate
speed”*



THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT



The successful Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955 – 1956 was a result of grassroots organization and cooperation with larger institutions. While Rosa Parks acted on her own, the real organizer of the bus boycott was not Parks but Jo Ann Robinson. She printed out 35,000 flyers and distributed them to the black community of Montgomery and its churches. She was a leader of the Women's Political Council and later a founder of the Montgomery Improvement Association, which hired a young minister from the just out of seminary school in Boston to lead the group: Martin Luther King, Jr.

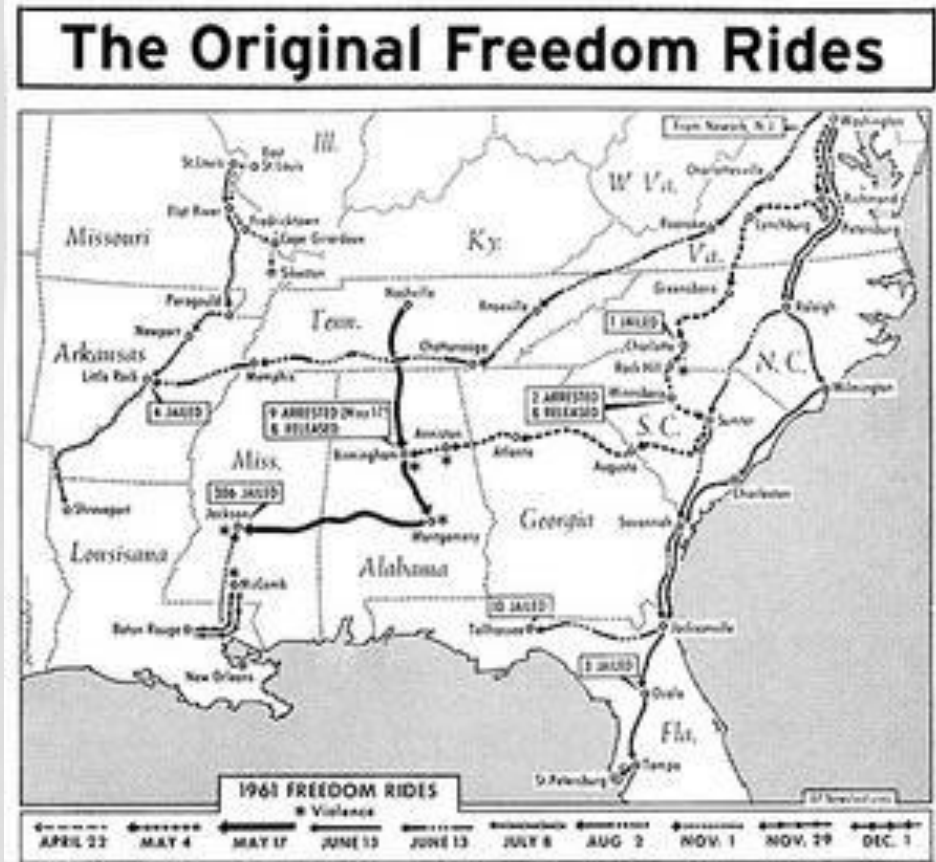
INTEGRATION OF LITTLE ROCK HIGH SCHOOL

President Eisenhower literally had to call in the National Guard – and federalize the units – in order to restore order in Little Rock when Central High School began the integration process in the fall of 1957.



THE CORE FREEDOM RIDES, 1961

Members of the Congress of Racial Equality – whites and blacks – tested the limits of federal law in a summer's long ride from Washington, D.C. to New Orleans, LA. Their intention was to test the federal laws which had recently been passed banning discrimination and segregation on interstate busses and at bus depots or rest areas on interstate highways.



ANNISTON, ALABAMA



At Anniston, Alabama, the Freedom Riders Greyhound bus was stopped, its tires were slashed, and a firebomb was hurled onboard. The bus burned. Although a mob attempted to keep the doors shut, Freedom Riders were able to escape the inferno. Nearby highway patrolmen discouraged a lynch mob by firing shots into the air.

JIM ZWERG AND JOHN LEWIS



In Jackson, Mississippi, members of the Freedom Riders were dragged from their busses and beaten by a mob of segregationist whites. Then, they were arrested. Jim Zwerg, right, was beaten so severely he was hospitalized and never fully recovered. John Lewis, left, was arrested. He chose to work in prison all summer, rather than pay the fine and court costs.

GEORGE WALLACE, SEGREGATION

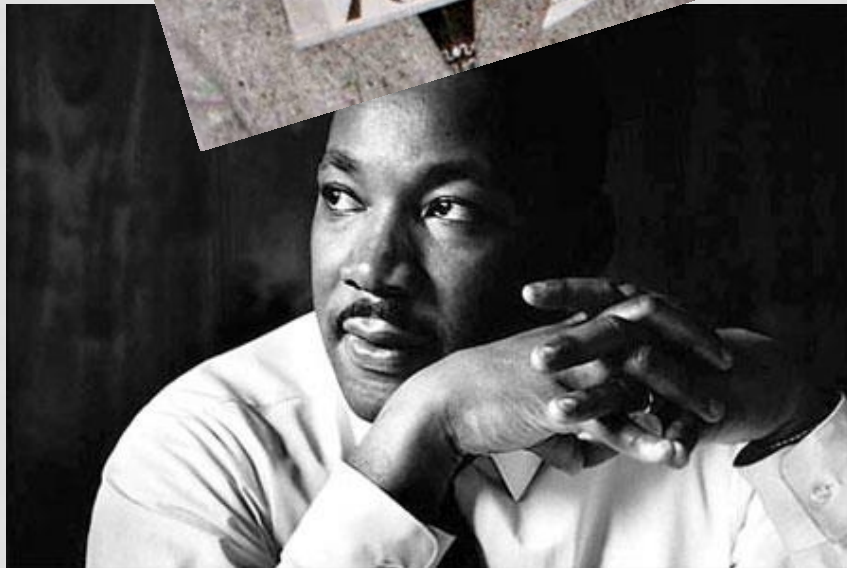
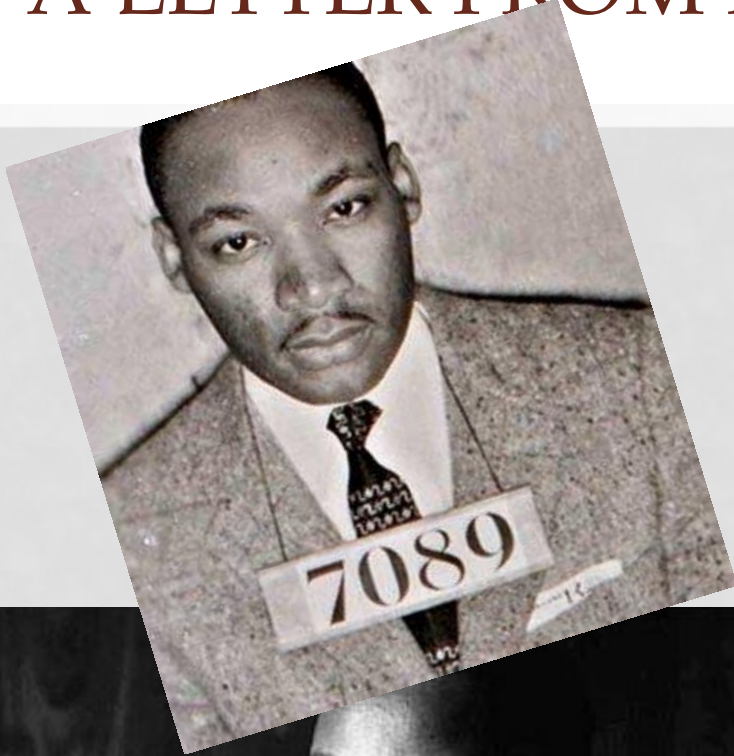


"Today I have stood, where once Jefferson Davis stood, and took an oath to my people. It is very appropriate then that from this Cradle of the Confederacy, this very Heart of the Great Anglo-Saxon Southland, that today we sound the drum for freedom as have our generations of forebears before us done, time and time again through history. Let us rise to the call of freedom-loving blood that is in us and send our answer to the tyranny that clanks its chains upon the South. In the name of the greatest people that have ever trod this earth, I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny . . . and I say . . . segregation today . . . segregation tomorrow . . . segregation forever.... The true brotherhood of America, of respecting the separateness of others . . and uniting in effort . . has been so twisted and distorted from its original concept that there is a small wonder that communism is winning the world."

BIRMINGHAM SUMMER OF 1963



A LETTER FROM A BIRMINGHAM JAIL



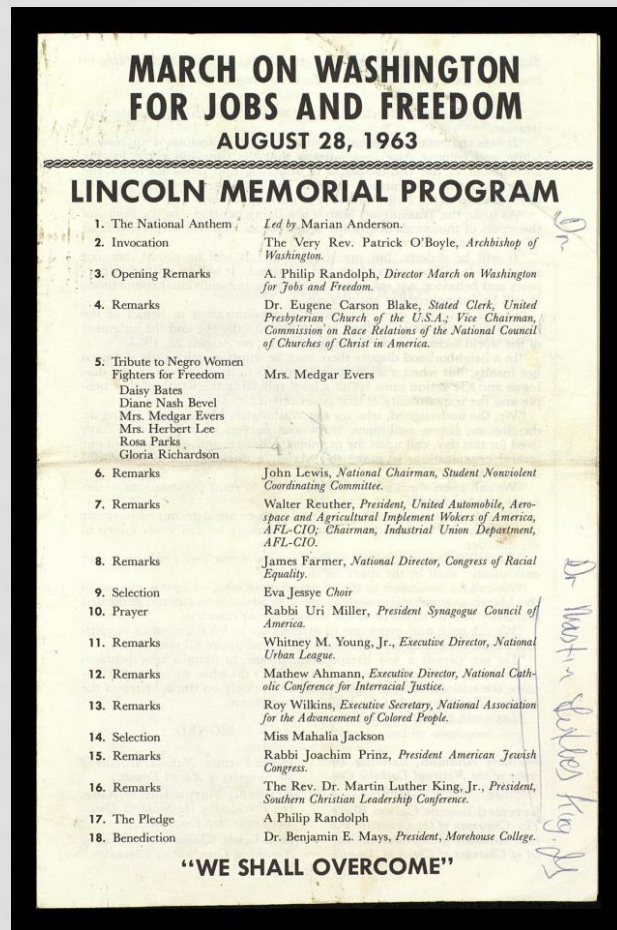
"You express a great deal of anxiety over our willingness to break laws. This is certainly a legitimate concern. Since we so diligently urge people to obey the Supreme Court's decision of 1954 outlawing segregation in the public schools, at first glance it may seem rather paradoxical for us consciously to break laws. One may want to ask: "How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?" The answer lies in the fact that there are two types of laws: just and unjust. I would be the first to advocate obeying just laws. One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that "an unjust law is no law at all"

MARCH ON WASHINGTON, 1963



The March on Washington for Jobs and freedom was organized by labor union leader Asa Philip Randolph, and it is best remembered for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" Speech. That powerful sermon was a punctuation mark, though, for an enormous enterprise which articulated a complex view of race relations in America.

THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON



Included in the March on Washington with speaking rolls were A. Philip Randolph, the wife of slain NAACP leader Medgar Evers, John Lewis of SNCC, James Farmer of CORE, Roy Wilkins of the NAACP, and of course, King.

THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION



After the March, Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon Johnson met with leaders of the Civil Rights movement, including King, John Lewis, A. Philip Randolph, and NAACP leader Roy Wilkins, Jr. By the end of the meeting, the President had given his word that comprehensive Civil Rights reforms would be presented to the Congress – a promise which eventually resulted in the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

16TH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



The bombing of Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth's 16th Street Baptist Church, just three weeks after King's moving oration, brought the horrors of the Civil Rights movement back into focus. Four girls preparing Sunday School lessons in the basement of the church were murdered. The crime remained unsolved for decades.

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

PRESIDENT LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON

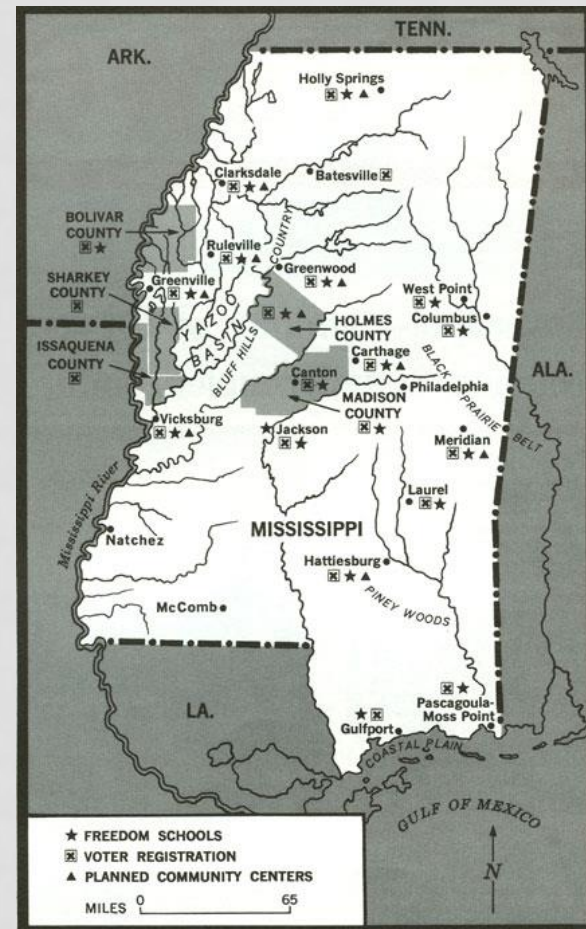


THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

- The Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbid discrimination based on race, skin color, religion, gender, or nation of origin.
- All public facilities were required to be desegregated.
- Women made significant gains due to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including an end to discrimination in hiring practices and gaining access to higher education thanks to Title Nine.
- Lyndon Baines Johnson was the President who signed this into law.

MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM SUMMER, 1964

Attracting college students black and white from across the United States, Mississippi Freedom Summer was a massive voter registration drive which began in the summer of 1964. Bigoted whites in Mississippi were convinced that outsiders were invading their state in order to change their customs, and prepared to defend segregation and racist policies using force whenever practical.



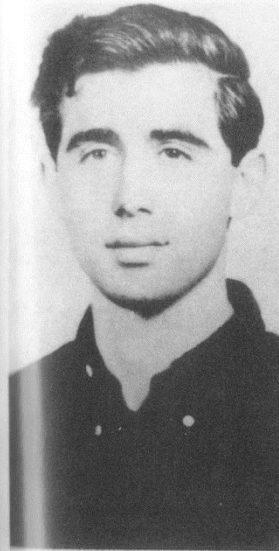
SCHWERNER, GOODMAN, AND CHANEY

Murdered in
Philadelphia, Mississippi,
these three voter
registration activists
were shot to death and
buried in an earthen
dam – in an attempt to
end their influence.

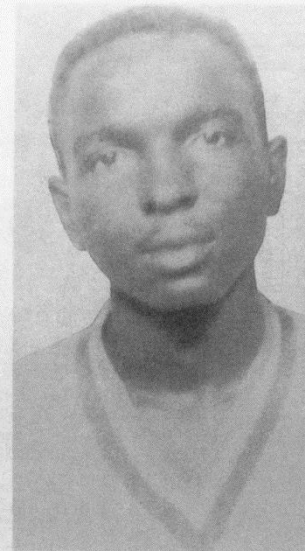
MISSING CALL FBI

THE FBI IS SEEKING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE AT PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI, OF THESE THREE INDIVIDUALS ON JUNE 21, 1964. EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED TO LOCATE GOODMAN, CHANEY, AND SCHWERNER, WHO ARE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

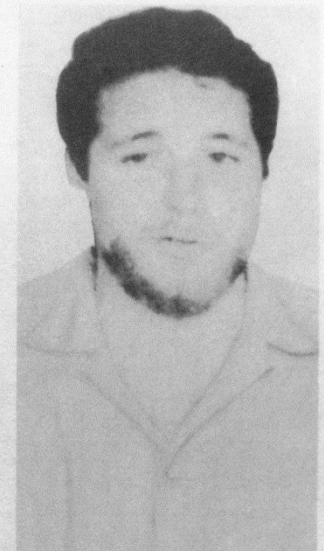
ANDREW GOODMAN



JAMES EARL CHANEY



MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER



RACE: White
SEX: Male
DOB: November 23, 1943
POB: New York City
AGE: 20 years
HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 150 pounds
HAIR: Dark brown; wavy
EYES: Brown
TEETH: Good: none missing
SCARS AND MARKS:

Negro
Male
May 30, 1943
Meridian, Mississippi
21 years
5'7"
135 to 140 pounds
Black
Brown
Good: none missing
1 inch cut scar 2 inches above left ear.

White
Male
November 6, 1939
New York City
24 years
5'9" to 5'10"
170 to 180 pounds
Brown
Light blue
Pock mark center of forehead, slight scar on bridge of nose, appendectomy scar, broken leg scar.

SHOULD YOU HAVE OR IN THE FUTURE RECEIVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY ME OR THE NEAREST OFFICE OF THE FBI. TELEPHONE NUMBER IS LISTED BELOW.

FANNIE LOU HAMER AND THE MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM DEMOCRATIC PARTY

These brave souls, who traveled all the way to Atlantic City, NJ to plead their case, were never truly accepted by their Democratic cohorts.

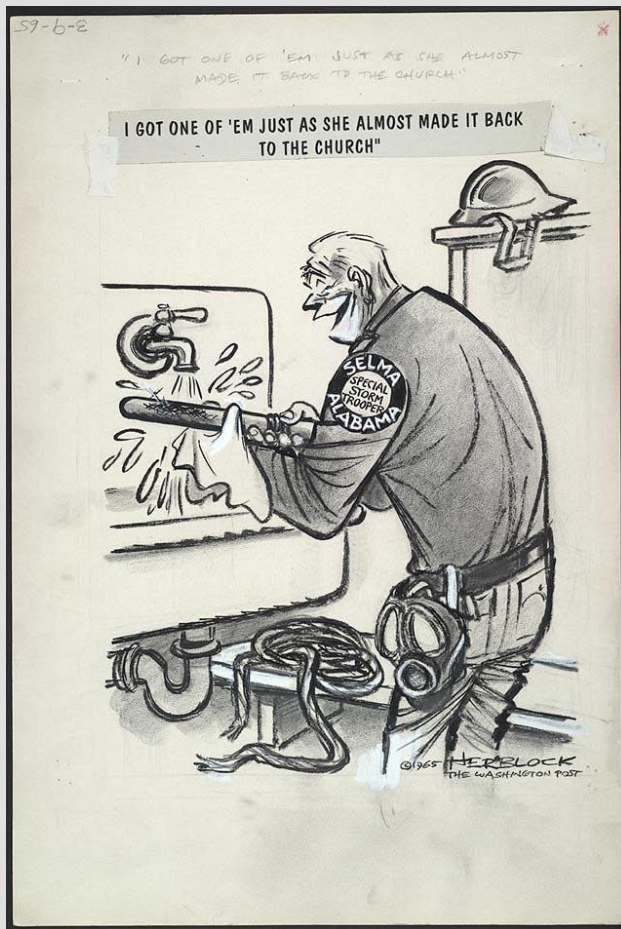


SELMA



VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

PRESIDENT LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON



Due in large part to the emotional response American audiences had when confronted with the footage from the Selma march – “Bloody Sunday” as it was known, the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965. The video interrupted a broadcast of the film Judgment at Nuremberg – a movie concerning the prosecution of Nazi war criminals who had behaved not too differently from the Alabama State troopers responsible for the bloodshed.

THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT



- The Voting Rights act banned literacy tests – which were unfairly administered.
- It provided federal, or national registration workers, instead of registrars that were controlled by the states.
- By 1968 a huge increase in the number of eligible African-American votes had taken place.
- Lyndon Baines Johnson was the President who signed the Voting Rights Act into law.

ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES

- Malcolm X and the Nation of Islam
- Stokely Carmichael and the “Black Power” Movement
- The Black Panther Party
- The changing role of the NAACP.
- Martin Luther King, 1965 – 1968
- Jesse Jackson, PUSH/Rainbow Coalition
- The role of literature in the African-American experience: James Baldwin, Ralph Waldo Ellison, Richard Wright, Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou.

OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENTS

- Native Americans, women, Latinos, Asian-Americans, and homosexuals have all used the tactics of the Civil Rights movement in order to make gains for themselves:
- Members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) were effective in arguing for greater autonomy on reservations.
- The woman's movement resulted in greater rights through the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the promotion of the Equal Pay Act and the Equal Rights Amendment, and the selection of several women for the Supreme Court: Sandra Day O'Connor, Elena Kagan, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, and Sonia Sotomayor for example.